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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 TEL AVIV 002473

SIPDIS

NEA FOR BURNS/SATTERFIELD
NEA/SA/EX FOR AUSTIN-FERGUSON; DEPT FOR DS/IP/ITA; DEPT FOR
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NSC FOR ABRAMS/DANIN
USAID FOR DCHA, DCHA/FFP
CENTCOM FOR GENERAL ABIZAID

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KWBG](#) [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [PHUM](#) [CASC](#) [KPAL](#)

SUBJECT: THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND: #81; APRIL 30, 2004
(1600 HOURS LOCAL) -- IDF ACTIONS IN WEST BANK KILL TWO,
GAZA UNKNOWNNS ATTACK PA HOSPITAL DIRECTOR

THIS IS A JOINT MESSAGE FROM CONGEN JERUSALEM AND EMBASSY TEL
AVIV

1. (SBU) Summary. In the West Bank, IDF troops killed one Palestinian during a clash with stone throwers, and another Palestinian woman reportedly died of tear gas inhalation in a separate incident. An IDF incursion team demolished houses throughout the West Bank, including 11 south of Hebron. In the Gaza Strip, Israeli authorities at Karni crossing found an explosive device in an outbound shipment. Unknown Palestinians attacked and beat Dr. Ibrahim Habbash, director of Gaza City's Shifa Hospital. Demonstrators throughout the Strip protested the GOI's withholding of PA funds. End summary.

West Bank

2. (SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Death: The IDF killed one Palestinian April 29 in Haris village, near Ariel settlement, during a clash with stone throwers.

-- Death/Injury: A Palestinian woman died April 29 in her home in Furra refugee camp, reportedly after inhaling tear gas Israeli troops fired during a clash in the camp, Fifteen other Palestinians were injured in the clash.

3. (SBU) DEMOLITIONS:

-- The IDF demolished 11 shacks near Yatta village, south of Hebron, April 29, apparently because they were constructed without permits.

-- The IDF demolished one house in Bayt Ummar village, south of Bethlehem on Route 60, apparently because it had been built without a permit.

-- The IDF destroyed a small Palestinian gas station in the Jordan Valley April 29.

4. (SBU) CURFEWS/CLOSURES:

-- No age restrictions were imposed on Palestinians coming to Jerusalem to pray at Al Aqsa Mosque April 30.

-- Bitunia village was under curfew April 29.

Gaza Strip

5. (SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Deaths: Nil.

-- Injury: Israeli media reported that Palestinians near Khan Younis fired an anti-tank rocket at an IDF bulldozer, injuring two soldiers.

-- Injury: UNRWA reported that unknown masked men attacked and beat Dr. Ibrahim Habbash, Director of the Shifa Hospital and a reportedly high-ranking member of Fatah, outside the entrance to the Rimal Health Center April 30.

-- Mortars/Rockets/Shootings: According to IDF and Israeli media sources, Israeli Airports Authority officials stationed at the Karni crossing safely detonated an explosive belt found in a container loaded with textiles that was headed for the West Bank. According to UNRWA, IDF forces opened fire opposite the Barahma area near Rafah, and fired a tank shell and flares at Kusufim April 30.

6. (SBU) BORDER CROSSINGS/CHECKPOINTS

-- Route Four (Salahadeen Road), the main north-south traffic artery, was closed at Netzarim junction and subject to random closures at Abu Kholi April 30.

-- Erez Crossing was closed to Palestinians but open to internationals, and the Erez industrial zone was closed April 30.

-- Sufa Crossing was closed April 30.

-- Karni Terminal was closed April 30 due to the discovery of an explosive belt in a container headed for the West Bank (see above.)

-- Rafah Terminal was open except to Palestinians between the ages of 16 and 35 April 30.

-- The Al-Mowassi checkpoints were closed at Tel al-Sultan and Toufah April 30.

17. (SBU) INCURSIONS/DEMOLITIONS

-- According to UNRWA, IDF forces entered the Khan Younis camp with several tanks and bulldozers, demolishing five homes and damaging 15 April 18.

18. (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

-- Fatah organized a demonstration in support of President Arafat in Gaza City April 29. Approximately 10,000 people attended, including students, legislators, PA officials, and National and Islamic Powers representatives, some of whom were armed and fired into the air. The demonstration ended at 1240 hours according to UNRWA.

-- Israeli media sources reported that PA Minister of Industry and Trade Maher al-Masri expressed concern that Israel was not coordinating with the PA over the economic aspects of withdrawal. He stated April 30 that the PA would like control over the industrial zone and would like Palestinians to continue being able to work in Israel after a withdrawal.

-- According to UNRWA there were scattered demonstrations at mosques throughout the strip after noon prayers April 30 to protest MATAK's holding of PA monies meant to assist poor families.

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